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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough or double brackets; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

Claims 1-4 (Canceled.)

5. (Currently Amended) A veterinary syringe, comprising a base body having a front side and a rear side, wherein ~~on the front side of which~~ a syringe barrel for receiving ~~the~~ a medicament is arranged on said front side, ~~while~~ and a guiding element for a plunger rod that is guided therein so as to be movable in a longitudinal direction is arranged on ~~the~~ said rear side ~~thereof~~, and wherein one end of said plunger rod is coupled~~,~~ to ~~which~~ a plunger ~~is attached,~~ and extends into ~~the~~ said syringe barrel;~~,~~

-said syringe further comprising a handle for holding ~~the~~ said syringe, an operating lever~~,~~ having one end ~~of which is~~ pivotably ~~attached~~ coupled to ~~the~~ a lower part of ~~the~~ said handle, and having another ~~while the other~~ end ~~thereof is~~ guided within ~~the~~ a bottom side of ~~the~~ said guiding element and ~~engages~~ engageable with a toothed rack via a ~~spring-biased~~ catch biased towards engagement, said toothed rack being disposed on ~~the~~ said ~~bottom side of the~~ plunger rod;~~,~~

said syringe further comprising ~~and~~ a locking device for ~~the~~ locking a position of said plunger rod, wherein said locking device ~~being~~ is engageable ~~which engages~~ with ~~the~~ said

toothed rack and includes~~ing~~ ~~is provided as~~ a locking slider partially disposed inside ~~the~~ said guiding element and being ~~so as to be~~ movable in a ~~vertical~~ locking direction that is generally transverse to said longitudinal direction~~at the end thereof~~, wherein said locking slider is provided with an opening through which ~~the~~ said plunger rod is guided ~~and extends into the toothed rack from below, locking said toothed rack so as to prevent it from withdrawing,~~;

wherein said locking slider can be moved from ~~the~~ a locked position into a released position for ~~the~~ said toothed rack and can be maintained in said released position by ~~means of~~ an actuator~~,~~;

[[,]]wherein a ~~the locking slider being extended so as to~~ protruding portion of said locking slider protrudes ~~out of~~ from ~~the bottom of the~~ said guiding element toward ~~the~~ said operating lever, and ~~said extension comprising~~ includes a bore; and[[,]]

~~by~~ wherein a locking pin ~~being provided~~ is disposed on ~~the~~ said operating lever~~, which is arranged~~ generally transverse to said locking slider~~parallel to the plunger rod~~, wherein said~~, and by the~~ locking pin engages with said ~~extending into the~~ bore when said operating lever is~~,~~ in ~~the~~ a resting position ~~of the operating lever,~~ and when ~~the~~ said locking slider is pressed down through ~~the~~ said guiding element ~~all the way to the locking pin~~ against ~~the~~ a biasing force ~~of a spring~~.

6. (Previously Presented) A veterinary syringe according to claim 5, wherein the locking slider is made of a resilient material.

7. (Previously Presented) A veterinary syringe according to claim 5, wherein the locking pin is maintained in the operating lever in a lengthwise displaceable manner along its axial direction under the pressure of a spring.

8. (Previously Presented) A veterinary syringe according to claim 5, wherein the locking slider has its upper end attached to a push-button, which is supported in the guiding element and vertically movable against the pressure of a spring.

9. (Currently Amended) A veterinary syringe having a front side and a rear side, the syringe comprising:

a syringe barrel at said front side for receiving a medicament,

a plunger rod movable in a longitudinal direction within the syringe barrel and out the rear side,

a handle for holding the syringe,

an operating lever positioned ~~adjacent~~ proximate the handle and operable to move the plunger rod forward,

a toothed rack associated with the plunger rod and extending generally parallel therewith,

a locking device comprising a slider movable in a direction generally transverse to the plunger and the toothed rack and releaseably engageable with the toothed rack for restricting the ~~movability~~ motion of said toothed rack and plunger in at least ~~the~~ a rearward direction, and

a locking ~~pin~~ protrusion movable with ~~in~~ the operating lever, the locking protrusion engageable with the slider for releaseably securing the slider in a position disengaged with the toothed rack.

10. (Currently Amended) A veterinary syringe of claim 9 wherein when the locking slider of the locking device is disengaged with the toothed rack and the operating lever is actuated, the ~~sliding device~~locking slider ~~then~~ engages with the toothed rack.

11. (Currently Amended) The veterinary syringe according to claim 9, wherein the locking slider is made of a resilient material that flexes when engaging ~~to become engaged~~ with the locking pin.

12. (Previously Presented) The veterinary syringe according to claim 9, wherein the locking pin is maintained in the operating lever in a lengthwise displaceable manner along its axial direction under the pressure of a spring.

13. (Previously Presented) The veterinary syringe according to claim 9, wherein the locking slider has its upper end attached to a push-button and vertically movable against the pressure of a spring.

14. (Currently Amended) A veterinary syringe having a front side and a rear side, the syringe comprising:

a syringe barrel at said front side for receiving a medicament;[[,]]

a plunger rod movable in a longitudinal direction within the syringe barrel and out the rear side;[[,]]

a handle for holding the syringe;[[,]]

an operating lever positioned adjacent the handle and operable to move the plunger rod forward;[[,]]

~~a toothed rack associated with the plunger rod and extending parallel therewith,~~

~~a locking~~ means for limiting motion of the plunger rod ~~and toothed rack positioned at the rear side~~; and

means for maintaining disengagement of the means for limiting motion of the plunger rod so as to permit free movement of the plunger rod.

Please add new claims 15-19 as follows:

15. (New) A veterinary syringe having a front side and a rear side, the syringe comprising:

a syringe body;

a syringe barrel retained by the syringe body at the front side for receiving a medicament,

a plunger rod movable in a longitudinal direction within the syringe barrel and out the rear side,

a handle portion of the syringe body for holding the syringe,

an operating member positioned proximate the handle and operable to move the plunger rod forward,

a disengageable ratcheting mechanism partially housed in the syringe body, the disengageable ratcheting mechanism associated with the plunger rod and operable to limit movement of the plunger rod to a forward direction when engaged with the plunger rod; and

a locking mechanism partially housed in the syringe body and engageable with the disengageable ratcheting mechanism, the locking mechanism being operable to retain the disengageable ratcheting mechanism in a disengaged state from the plunger rod to permit the plunger rod to move in a backward direction, wherein the locking mechanism engages with the disengageable ratcheting mechanism on an exterior of the syringe body such that an interface of the locking mechanism and the disengageable ratcheting mechanism is exposed.

16. (New) The veterinary syringe of claim 15, wherein the disengageable ratcheting mechanism includes:

a toothed rack moveable with the plunger rod; and

a catching member moveable with the operating member and biased toward engagement with the toothed rack, wherein the catching member, the operable member, and the syringe body are arranged such that the operable member disengages from the toothed rack when the operating member is in a home position; and

a ratcheting member biased toward engagement with the toothed rack by a biasing force, wherein a protruding portion of the ratcheting member protrudes from the syringe body and the protruding portion includes the interface that engages with the locking mechanism.

17. (New) The veterinary syringe of claim 16, wherein the locking mechanism includes a lock control member disposed on the exterior of the syringe body and coupled with the ratcheting member, wherein the lock control member is moveable against the biasing force to effect engagement of the locking mechanism with the disengageable ratcheting mechanism.

18. (New) The veterinary syringe of claim 15, wherein the locking mechanism includes an interface feature that is moveable with operable member, and can engage with the disengageable ratcheting mechanism to effect retention of the disengageable ratcheting mechanism when the operable member is in a home position.

19. (New) The veterinary syringe of claim 18, wherein the interface feature disengages from the disengageable ratcheting mechanism when the operable member is moved from the home position.